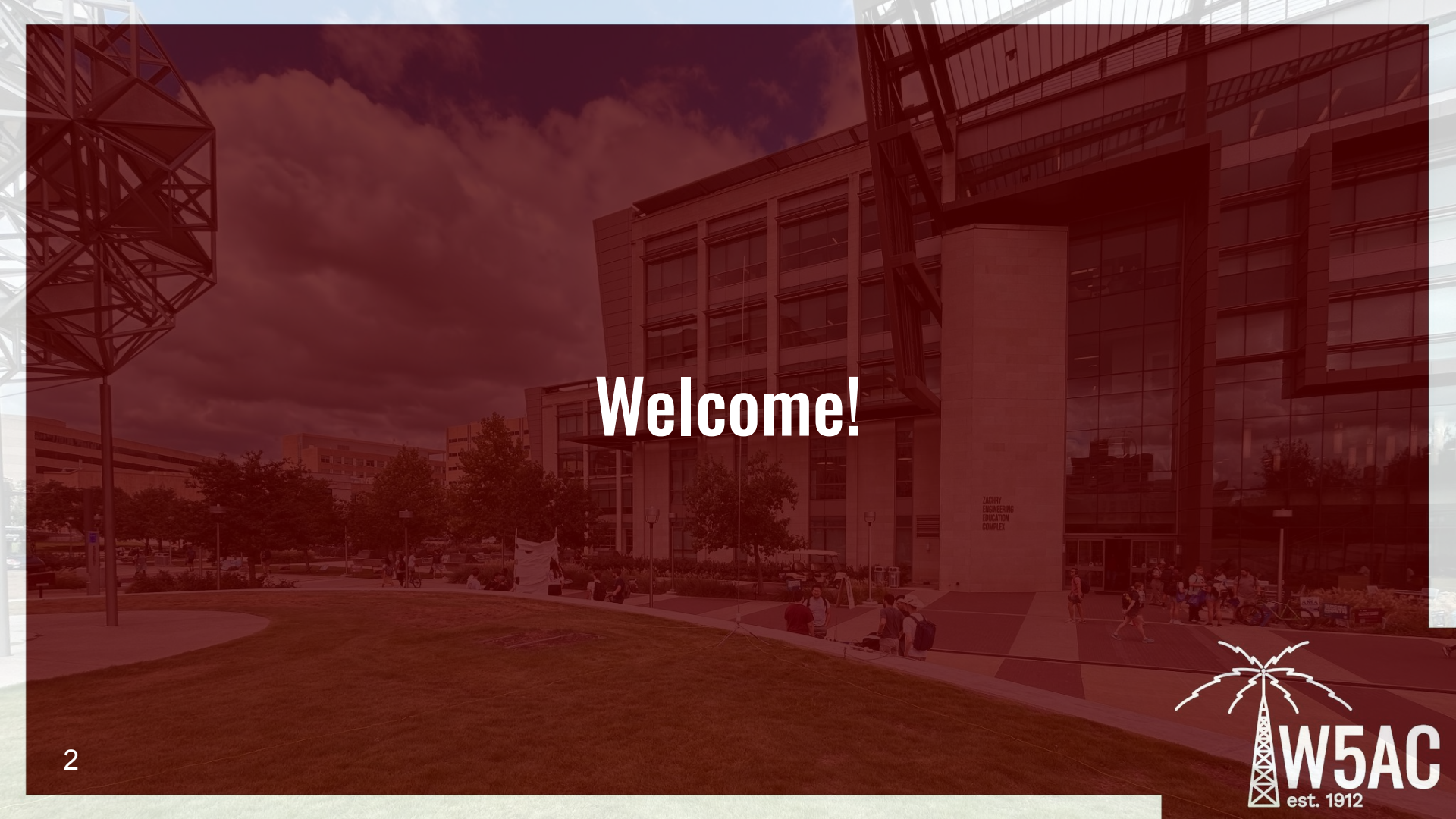
W5AC Informational

January 22nd, 2026

Informational



Welcome!

W5AC
est. 1912

Meeting Agenda

- Leadership Intro and Updates
- General Information
  - Upcoming Events
  - Where to find us
- Informational Presentation
- Intro to School Club Roundup
- Closing
  - Q&A
  - Group Dinner

W5AC est. 1912

Leadership Introduction and Updates

W5AC
est. 1912

Officers

President:
Katherine Forson
KT5KMF

Secretary:
Matthew Cadman
KJ5IIF

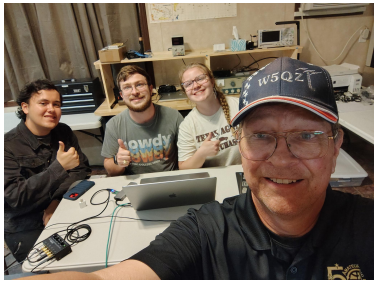
Vice President:
Nayab Warach
KI5YBE

Treasurer:
Joshua McMIllin
KJ5DAO

W5AC
est. 1912

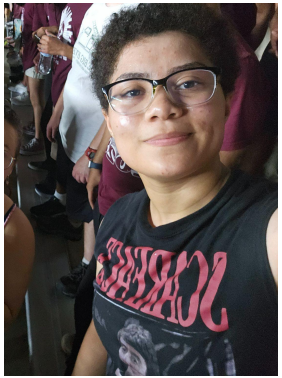
Directors

Director of Operations: James KI5UXW



Shack Director/Club Historian: Dave W5QZ

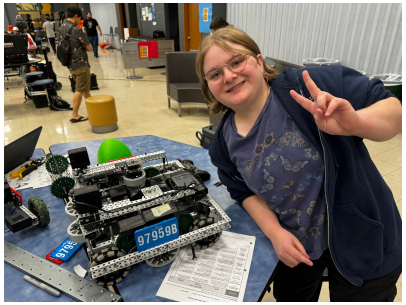
Director of Operations: Alana



Director of Inter-Club Relations: Cam WX5CAM

Equipment Director: Nick KJ5MVK

Public Relations Director: Sofia



Repeater Administrator /Digital Infrastructure Director: Ian AE5ID

W5AC est. 1912

Faculty Advisors

Dr. Kevin Nowka

- Primary Advisor
- Professor of Practice, Electrical & Computer Engineering

Dr. John Bosshard (AD5RN)

- Secondary Advisor & License Trustee
- Lecturer, Electronic Systems Engineering Technology

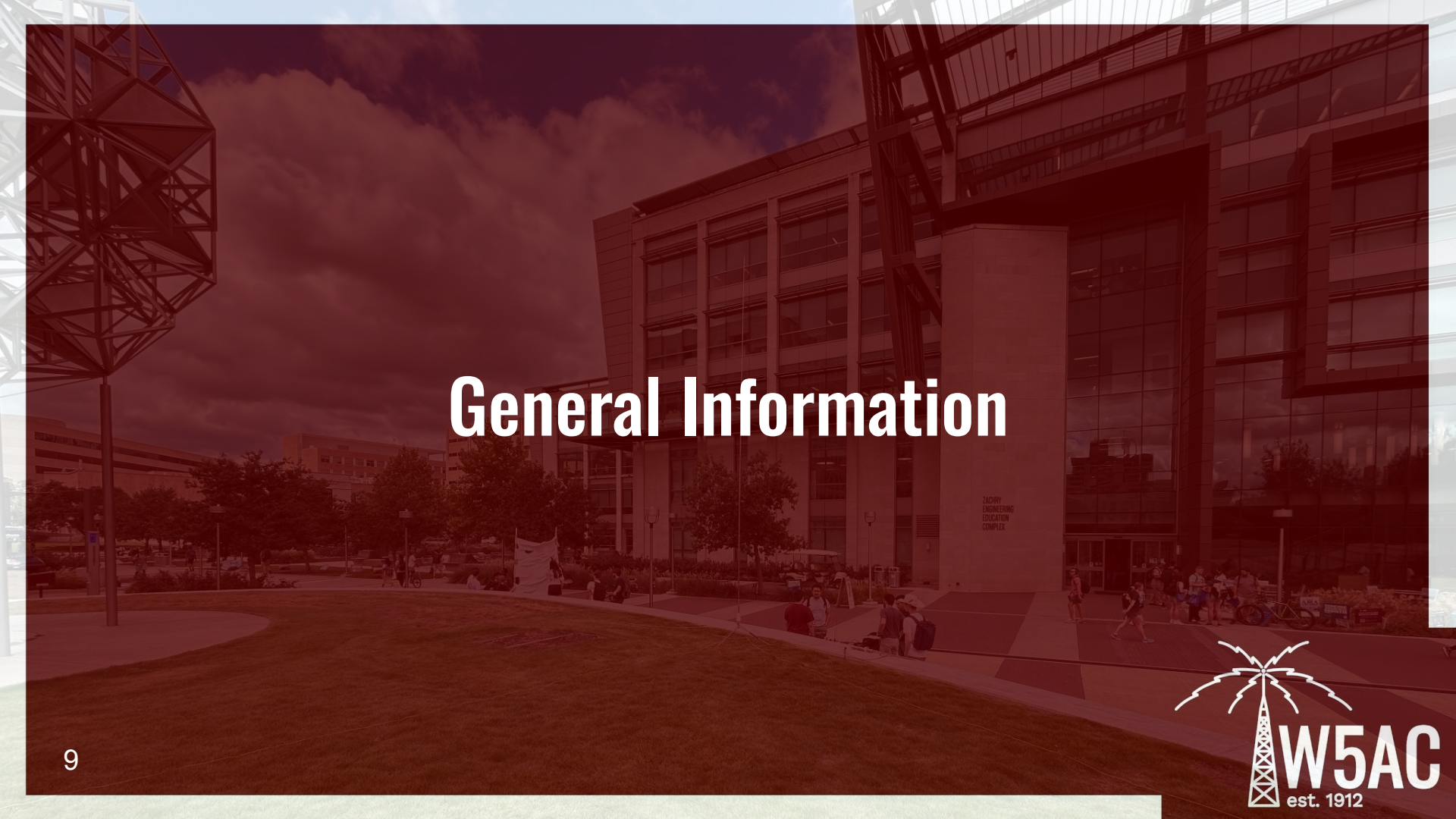
W5AC est. 1912

Leadership Updates

- From Katherine:
  - I will be sending out dues notifications tomorrow if your dues:
    - Have recently expired
    - Are about to expire
  - Discord permissions will be updated next week

- From James, KI5UXW:
  - Project Referendum
    - Vote for it in Discord if you'd like to see a W5AC project team formed to build antennas for 80m/160m!
    - If interested, talk to KI5UXW or Alana after the meeting.

W5AC est. 1912



General Information

W5AC
est. 1912

Upcoming Events

- Unfortunately, we will no longer be participating in Winter Field Day due to weather :(
  - Feel free to coordinate individual operations under **your own** callsigns!
  - Or, you can join W5BCS at the American Legion Post 159 in Bryan!
- School Club Roundup - February 9-13
  - More information later in the presentation!
- On your radar: Belton Hamfest
  - **April** 10th and **11th**
  - Requires travel forms, so signup will be sooner than you think!
- Weekly net - Every Monday at 9:00 PM
  - W5AC 2m / 70cm analog repeaters
  - Great chance to get on the air and get updates about W5AC
  - You better join

W5AC est. 1912

Semester Meeting Schedule

- Wednesday, February 18th
  - Location TBD
- Wednesday, March 18th
  - Location TBD
- Wednesday, April 22nd
  - WEB 232

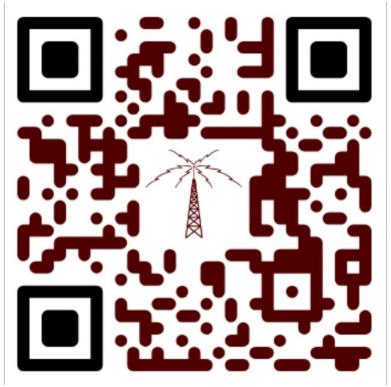
Join our calendars!

- Events - **w5ac.tamu.edu/w5acevents**
- Repeater/Nets - **w5ac.tamu.edu/w5acrepeater**

W5AC est. 1912

Where to Find Us

- Linktree
  - Website
  - Social Media
  - Discord
  - Upcoming events and meetings
- Flywire Store
  - Membership Dues
    - In person - talk to Josh
  - Merch coming soon... stay tuned!



https://linktr.ee/w5ac

tx.ag/duesw5ac

W5AC est. 1912

Informational Presentation

W5AC
est. 1912

First, an introduction to W5AC:

- W5AC is an amateur radio club! (also called “ham” radio)
- One of the oldest organizations on Campus
- We have a room in Wisenbaker (WEB 169) (called a “shack” in ham terms)
- We manage equipment across campus and hold social events

W5AC est. 1912

What is Amateur (ham) Radio?

- Amateur radio is a licensed hobby which primarily consists of building and operating radio systems

- Talk with people all over the world without the internet
- Experiment with radio technology and techniques
- Get hands-on electronics and technical experience

- The “Aggie Network” is real, and so is the “Ham network”

W5AC
est. 1912

ca. 1912

Our Mission

"Promote amateur radio activity in the Texas A&M University community"

Who We Are:

- Established 1912
- W5AC is an amateur (ham) radio club
- Open to all majors, not just engineers
- Passionate about radio

What We Do:

- Provide equipment
- Free license testing
- Hold workshops
- Collaborate with clubs
- Serve the community

Current W5AC Shack (WEB 169)

W5AC est. 1912

Some cool things we do:

ARRL Field Day:

- Show off what HAM radio is about
- Make lots of contacts and practice emergency operations

W5AC Foxhunts:

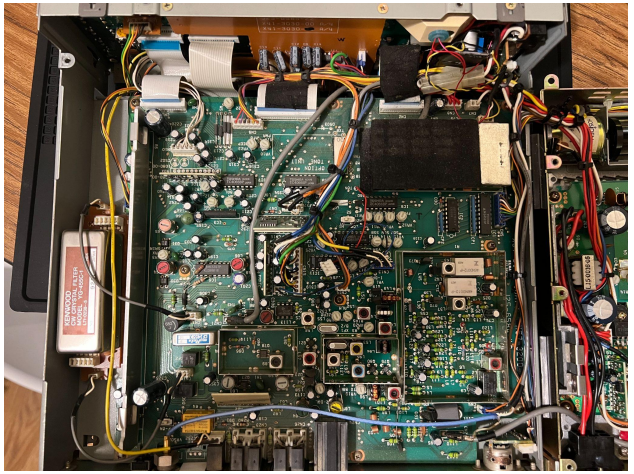
- Hidden transmitter hunts using direction-finding techniques
- We have our own foxes but occasionally hunt other things
- Coulter Airfield interference hunt Spring 2025
- Radiosonde retrieval from weather balloon launches

POTA / SOTA:

- Parks on the Air, Summits on the Air
- A good excuse to enjoy a day of radio outside
- Bragging rights for rare parks

W5AC
est. 1912

“A Hobby of Hobbies”



For Engineers and Tinkerers:

- **Homebrew Radios**: Design and/or assemble your own radio and push your electronics knowledge
- **Space Communication**: Talk to satellites, the ISS, and bounce signals off of the moon!
- **Digital Communication**: Sending text, images, and data without the internet
- **SDR** - Software Defined Radio: Using computers to produce and interpret signals
- **Modeling and Simulation**: Using design software to understand and test the mechanics of wave propagation

W5AC est. 1912

Amateur radio is a mile wide ***and*** a mile deep. No matter your background, I guarantee you someone in amateur radio is doing what you're interested in. (And they're probably in this club)

W5AC
est. 1912

For Us:

The activities we spend most of our time on are:

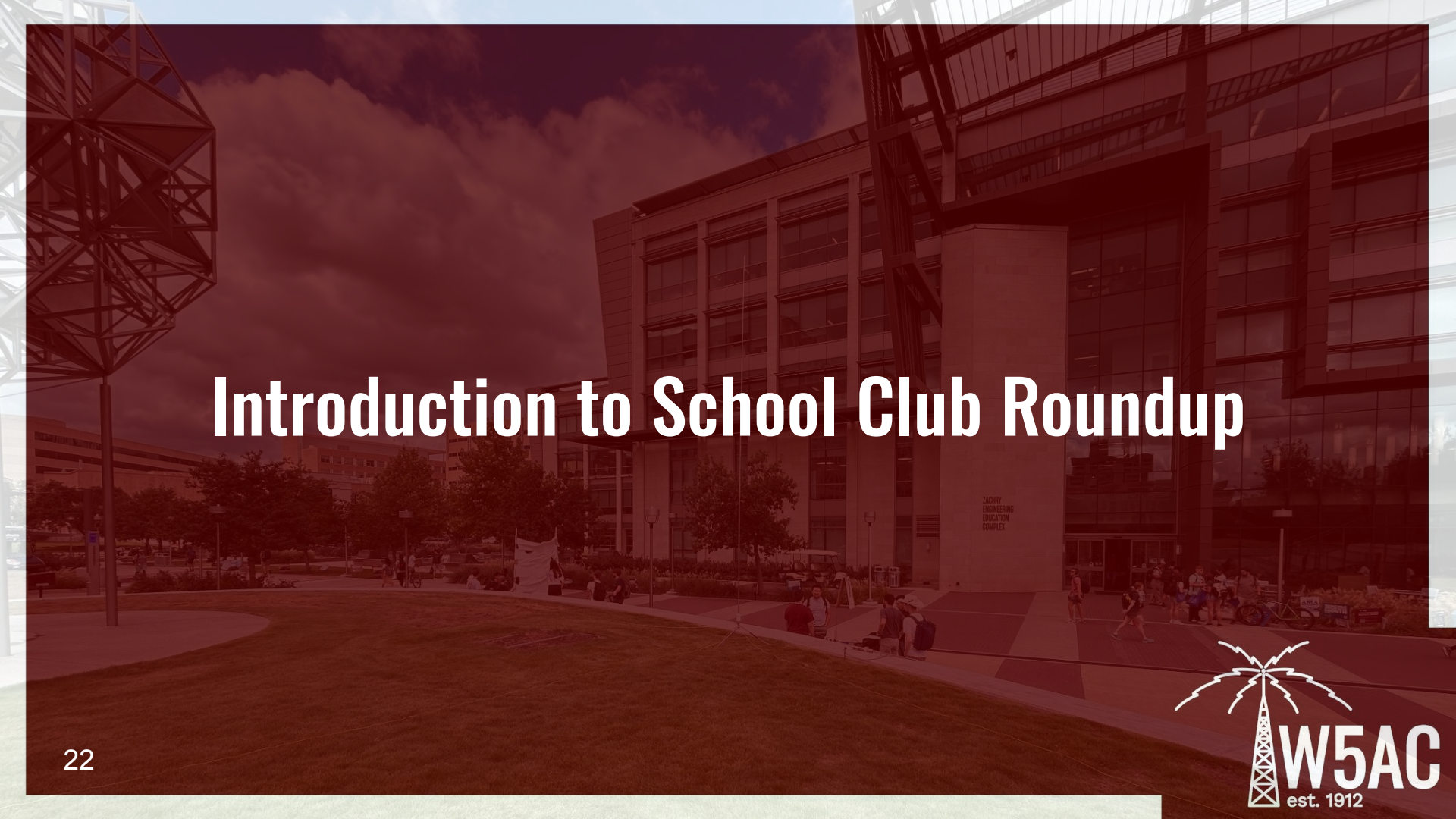
- Radio Operations (setting up, talking on air, tearing down)
- Social Events
- Contests
- Managing Equipment (Repeaters, shack, etc)
- Nets (W5AC Weekly net, Insomniac net)

W5AC est. 1912

What We Offer

- Repeaters
- Weekly Net
- Flex
- Meshtastic
- Shack
- Study Help
- Equipment checkout
- Discord
- Knowledge classes don’t cover

W5AC est. 1912



Introduction to School Club Roundup

W5AC
est. 1912

School Club Roundup

- **Operate in HF**
  - (Generals and Extras only, Techs can help with logging)
- **Gain experience in understanding signal propagation**
- Potentially help someone who forgot to get the information for doing a POTA activation before leaving areas with cell service
- **<u>Make Friends</u>**

W5AC est. 1912

School Club Roundup

- Can operate 24 hours total, up to 6 hours per day
- Score = QSO points x Multiplier
  - QSO points = # phone contacts + 2x(# CW contacts + # digital contacts)
  - Multiplier = # states/provinces + # DX entities + 2x(# clubs) + 5x(# schools)
- Exchange
  - Must include signal report, entry class (I, C, or S), and state/province/country
- Best to operate in pairs
- Not sure where to start? Reach out to us!
- **If you are interested, stick around after the meeting!**

W5AC est. 1912

School Club Roundup

Sign up with this QR code:

tx.ag/feb26scr

Monday, February 9th - Friday, February 13th

This could be you!

W5AC est. 1912

Questions?

W5AC
est. 1912

Gig ‘em and 73s!
(Best Wishes)
W5AC
est. 1912